

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 12b. This sheet, which includes Figures 12a-d, replaces the original sheet including Figure 12a-d. In Figure 12b, the element represented by 34a, 34b, and C4 is centered within the circle R4.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet(s)

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The indication that claim 14 would be allowed if amended into independent form is gratefully acknowledged.

The attached sheet of drawing figures includes changes to Figure 12b. This sheet, which includes Figures 12a-d, replaces the original sheet including Figure 12a-d. In Figure 12b, the element represented by 34a, 34b, and C4 is centered within the circle R4. No new matter is introduced by way of this amendment. Entry of the amended drawing figures is earnestly solicited.

The Official Action rejected claims 4, 9, 10 and 13 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for being indefinite.

The Official Action further states that the claims are generally narrative and indefinite.

In response, claims 4, 9, 10, 13, 19 and 20 have been amended responsive to the Official Action's rejections for indefiniteness, and claims 1-20 have been amended for clarity responsive to the Official Action's general rejection as narrative and indefinite; no new matter is introduced by way of these amendments.

In particular, claims 4, 19 and 20 have been amended to recite a zone defining a surface of a sphere to obviate the Official Action's objection to the recitation of a sphere. The

amendment finds support in the specification and the Figures (e.g., page 6, lines 4-27; Figures 6, 10, 11d and 12d) and does not introduce new matter.

Claims 9 and 10 have been amended for clarity. It is respectfully submitted that the "anchoring elements" are clearly recited with respect to their structural relationship with other components of the device in claims 9 and 10 as amended.

As to claim 13, claim 13 has been amended to recite "a freedom of movement" in place of "the play" to more clearly recite the invention. It is respectfully submitted that one of skill in the art would understand the term "play" as a term of art to indicate a freedom of movement between mechanical parts. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is introduced by way of this amendment.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of all the rejections for indefiniteness are respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejected claims 1-6, 11, 12, and 15-18 under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Muller (US 2006/0034161; hereinafter MULLER).

The Official Action rejected claims 7 and 8 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over MULLER.

The rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the reasons that follow.

As to claim 1, the Official Action states that MULLER discloses a timepiece comprising a frame 2 in which a watch case

7 is mounted in reversible manner, where the watch case is rotatable within the frame around a determined axis (at pivot point 9) traversing the flank of the watch case 7 and the inner flank of the frame, and in that said flanks of the watch case and of the frame substantially are parts of a same surface of revolution around the determined axis. The Official Action references MULLER at Figures 3b and 3c.

In response, it is firstly noted that claim 1 has been amended as stated above. It is respectfully submitted that MULLER does not teach a frame and a watch case mounted in the frame, wherein a flank of the watch case and an inner flank of the frame are parts of a same surface of revolution around a determined axis, as recited by amended claim 1.

On the contrary, MULLER clearly illustrates the flank of the watch case and the inner flank of the frame having a conventional, cylindrical shape. That is, MULLER teaches a watch case flank that is curved with respect to a perpendicular axis of the watch face (i.e., around which the hands of the watch rotate), but not curved with respect to the determined axis around which the watch rotates when changing from one face to another. The same is true with respect to the inner flank of MULLER's frame.

The surface at reference 6 of Figures 1 and 2 clearly show a flat surface in the side view, further illustrated at reference 7 on Figures 3b-e. Similarly, the inner flank as shown

in Figures 3c-d as the surface opposite the outer surface of the frame indicated by reference 2, is cylindrical; i.e., flat in cross-section, the surface being parallel to the cylindrical axis. None of the Figures or the specification teaches or suggests any other structure to the flank of the watch case and the inner flank of the frame.

The surfaces of the inner flank of MULLER's watch case and the inner flank of MULLER's frame being flat, neither of MULLER's flanks are parts of a same surface of revolution around the determined axis, as recited in claim 1. It is therefore respectfully submitted that MULLER does not teach all the recitations of claim 1 and, accordingly, claim 1 is patentable over MULLER. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that the claims depending from claim 1 are patentable at least for depending from a patentable claim, as stated above. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections to the dependent claims are respectfully requested.


From the foregoing, it will be apparent that applicants have fully responded to the January 11, 2008 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this, applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, it is requested that the Examiner telephone the attorney for applicants at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

YOUNG & THOMPSON



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Roland E. Long, Jr., Reg. No. 41,949  
209 Madison Street  
Suite 500  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
Telephone (703) 521-2297  
Telefax (703) 685-0573  
(703) 979-4709

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**APPENDIX:**

The Appendix includes the following item(s):

- ☒ - a Replacement Sheet for Figure 12b of the drawings